

## RELIGIOUS BODIES TO GATHER HERE

Three Important Bodies to Assemble Shortly; Two in City.

### VIRGINIA M. E. CONFERENCE

State Convention of the Disciples of Christ Will Be Held at the Seventh-Street Christian Church in This City—Baptists Go to Norfolk.

During the next few weeks the attention of church circles will be absorbed in two or three great religious gatherings of State importance. Methodists, Baptists and Disciples will all assemble for the review of the work of the past year and the planning for that of the new, and for some little time to come other matters will be at a standstill. Of the three more important meetings two—the Virginia Conference of the M. E. Church, South, and the State Convention of the Disciples of Christ—will be held in this city. The other—the Baptist General Association—will go to Norfolk, having just in Richmond only last year. All three will be of the very liveliest interest, particularly the conference and the association, both of which have before them special matters of importance. For each the prospect has never been brighter for a large attendance and a generally successful meeting.

### THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

The annual session of the Virginia Conference of the M. E. Church, South, will begin in this city on November 12th, a week from next Wednesday. The meeting will be held at the Broad-Street Church, where for something like a week, the body will sit, transacting the business, regular and special, which may be before it.

The one point of transcendent interest connected with every meeting of the conference is the arrangement of the ministerial circuits for the ensuing year. Every church, and every pastor, has his separate interest, and each hopes a careful and anxious eye ready to detect possible signs of what the conference will bring forth. Yet no more unsettled and utterly undetermined thing can be imagined than the disposition which will be made of the several ministers. A change at the eleventh hour may necessitate a dozen things; the fallure of a single pastor to return to his charge may, at the last moment, require a complete shifting of what might otherwise be a number of prominent pastors. Hence there is no guessing with any appearance of accuracy. It is frequently possible to hit upon some of the changes which are made, but it is the merest chance that these prognostications are ever fulfilled.

Still there is always more or less of guess, and the present conference is no exception to the rule. It has been determined, first of all, that the coming session shall be one of but few changes. There are, of course, a number who, having served their time, will have to move, whether it be congenial or not. This number, however, is remarkably small, being only ten of whom four are presiding elders. Only one Richmond minister, the Rev. E. A. Potts, of Highland Park, is among the number. But there are others who will be transferred for more special reasons. For instance, it is practically certain that the Rev. J. E. Oyster, of the Fulton Church, will leave for some other field, and that he will be succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Sharp, of West Hampton. The Rev. Joseph D. Langley, of St. James, will also be among those to go. He will ask the conference to give him a year's rest, and will, in all probability, go to Nashville for a while. It is possible, also, that the Rev. R. B. Beadles, of Hasker Memorial, and the Rev. J. O. Babcock, of Fairmount Avenue, will take up work in other fields. Mr. Babcock usually moves every two years, and he has served that length of time at his present charge. Still his congregation is making a valiant struggle to retain him. The most interesting rumor, however, but the one having the least appearance of correctness, is to the effect that the Rev. Dr. W. V. Tisdell, presiding elder of the West Richmond District, will return to pastoral work and will go back to Centenary, his old field. The present pastor of Centenary, the Rev. Dr. W. W. Lear, it is said, will go to some other city.

These, so far as can be ascertained, are the chief of the rumors in connection with likely changes. As the time for the conference meeting gradually approaches, the gossiping will increase until there will be some report attached to nearly every church in the State. Then, at the general round-up, the carefully elaborated structure will be toppled over by the presiding bishop, who will announce a list of assignments entirely different from that which the gossips have decided upon.

**THE ARRANGEMENTS.**  
The attendance upon the conference will probably be quite large. About three hundred ministers and from two to three hundred others, including lay

## Cured of Constipation

By A Simple Fruit Preparation.

IS A CRUSHED FRUIT TONIC-LAXATIVE

GENTLEMEN—I have been troubled with constipation and the attendant nervousness and general debility for some time. I was unable to get any sleep at night. I was attracted by some advertisement and concluded to try Mull's Grape Tonic for my trouble. I am surprisedly pleased at the results. I now enjoy my nights sleep and am rapidly gaining in weight and strength.

JAS. W. TURNER,  
20 6th St., S. Minneapolis.

Thousands of people are suffering to-day just as this man was and they are augmenting their affliction in delaying the treatment which cured him. Nearly all diseases are the result of stomach disorder. The man who has perfect digestion, who can get the full nourishment from his food and whose bowels are regular, need never fear that he will be afflicted with rheumatism, lung trouble, kidney disorders, or heart disease. A constipated man is a sick man. He readily recognizes his affliction, but often does not realize its seriousness. Constipation is a self-caused sleeplessness, wasting of flesh and general debility. From this condition the body rapidly declines and inevitably leads into a diseased condition that it often requires much time and careful treatment to restore the lost health. Mull's Grape Tonic will not only cure the constipation, but it will build up the lost strength and add good, healthy flesh to the emaciated body.

Many people do not know what constipation is. Constipation is the failure of the bowels to carry off the refuse of the stomach. As a result the food lies in the alimentary canal and there rots, ferments and festers, throwing off even more disease germs than arises from decaying vegetation when exposed to the rays of the sun. It is any wonder, then, that constipation causes all the dire diseases which have been enumerated? Constipation often results in piles. It will undermine the most healthy man. Constipation, doctors tell you, causes nine-tenths of all human sufferings. Mull's Grape Tonic is not a new or patent remedy. It is the same formula as that used in the famous "Fruit Tonic" or "Grape Cure" of Germany. Every druggist in Germany knows its formula, many physicians in America are prescribing it. Mull's Grape Tonic will cure you. Send the name of your druggist to the Lightning Medicine Co., Rock Island, Ill., and in ten days you will receive a large sample bottle. All druggists sell Mull's Grape Tonic at cents a bottle. Sold in Richmond by Owens & Minor.

delegates and visitors, will be present. Arrangements are being made for the entertainment of this host. The Rev. Herbert M. Hope, of this city, is looking after all matters of transportation, and announces satisfactory arrangements. A special committee on Conference Entertainment has been appointed with the Rev. L. B. Pettit, of Clay Street, as chairman, and the Rev. J. T. Bosman, of Park Place, as secretary. Another committee is securing ministers who will attend.

This committee has held several meetings recently and the larger part of its work is done. The ministers will be housed and looked after. Nearly all the pastors in the city will be here, and then on the Sunday during which they will be here. The usual smaller details of the entertainment of the visitors have all been carefully planned.

A committee, headed by the Rev. W. B. Beauchamp, is the chairman, has just announced the place of meeting for the various committees and boards of the conference. This announcement is as follows:

Committee and Class for Admission on Trial—the stewards' room of Centenary Church.

Committee and Class of First Year—stewards' room at Broad-Street Church.

Committee and Class of Second Year—the ladies' parlor of Centenary Church.

Committee and Class of Third Year—the primary room at Broad-Street Church.

Committee and Class of Fourth Year—Epworth League room, Broad-Street Church.

Board of Missions—Epworth League room, Broad-Street Church.

Joint Board of Finance—primary room Broad-Street Church.

Board of Education—ladies' parlor, Centenary Church.

Board of Church Extension—stewards' room, Broad-Street Church.

Epworth League—Board-room adjoining Epworth League room, Broad-Street Church.

Committee on Publishing Interests—pastor's study, Centenary Church.

**INVITE GENERAL CONFERENCE.**  
As stated before, the sessions of the conference will be held in the Broad-Street Church. Bishop W. W. Duncan, of Mississippi, will preside. There will be the ordinary mass of business, the routine reports and the planning for a new year's work. Few special matters are expected to arise, though there is no telling what may spring up. Of these special matters one of the most interesting will undoubtedly be the proposition to invite the General Conference to meet here when it assembles again. This proposition is expected to meet with instant favor. Both the Richmond and the West Richmond District have already extended the invitation.

Among the regular matters only one need be noted at this time. Great things are expected from the conference by the orphanage located here. By the time the

conference meets there will be at the orphanage as many as thirty little children who have been rescued and given a good home. The conference will adjourn on one of the afternoon during its presence here and will pay a visit to the institution. Finally at the meeting of the conference some definite plan for the permanent support of the orphanage will be decided upon.

Baptist General Association.

The distinguishing feature of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the seventy-ninth annual session of which will begin on Thursday, November 13th, in the Freeman Street Baptist Church, of Norfolk, will be the final adoption of some plan for the co-ordination of all the Baptist institutions of learning in the State. This matter, proposed a year or more ago, has taken its place as the leading issue before the denomination, and its consideration by the General Association will in turn be the most important question at the coming meeting.

Throughout the State the proposition to bring all the Baptist schools into one great system, with some bond of organic connection, has met with complete favor. On all hands it is felt that such a scheme would redound to the benefit upon the denomination, being the best thing that could possibly happen for schools and scholars. Plans for this great movement have been gradually brought into shape by the educational committee, which has been at work since its appointment by the last General Association. The final report of this committee has not even yet been formulated, but that it will recommend the co-ordination scheme there can be no doubt. In fact, it has already a general idea of how this scheme should be carried out, and though its report will not be hurried with details, and will present no elaborate recommendations, the report will outline a simple but comprehensive plan for effecting the unification of the schools. This plan will in all probability comprehend two systems of schools—boys and girls—with Richmond College at the head of one branch and the Woman's College at the head of the other. Around the first named institution will be grouped all the secondary boys' schools, while to the latter will be attached, in a similar manner, the girls' schools. It is suggested that the Woman's College be placed on an equal footing with Richmond College and erected into a university, but in the nature of things this cannot be accomplished at once. Until it can be accomplished Richmond College will be practically the center of the two systems.

This is the general idea which the commission has in mind. The details can be worked out as the necessity for them arises. The scheme, as said, is looked upon generally with favor. The report of the commission will doubtless be adopted by the Association.

**OTHER MATTERS.**  
The Association will be in session four days, beginning Thursday and ending Sunday. The prospect for a large attendance is very bright. At the Richmond ministers and many laymen from this city will be there.

Among the more interesting matters in connection with the Association is an effort to make the contributions for benevolent purposes this year exceed that of any previous year. There is every indication that this effort will be crowned with success. The collections will probably amount to over \$10,000, without including the recent contributions to the Woman's College, or, in fact, any large individual gifts. Last year about \$2,000 was raised, including a gift of \$1,000 to the Orphanage. On October 25th of this year the contributions amounted to \$3,125.69, as against \$1,535.13 for the corresponding date last year.

The usual reports from various boards and committees will be received, discussed and adopted. The present officers will in all probability be re-elected. They are as follows: President, Rev. George W. Beale, D. D., Vice-Presidents, William J. Shipman, John R. Bagby, C. F. James, and L. J. Haley; Secretary, Hugh C. Elliott; Statistical Secretary, W. F. Dunaway; Treasurer, D. A. Jacob; Auditor, J. B. Montgomery.

**PRESIDENT BEALE'S "COUNSEL."**  
In a recent issue of the Religious Herald, President Beale gave the following "word of counsel" in connection with the approaching meeting:

"The approaching session of the General Association in Norfolk promises to be one of unusual interest and encouragement. The reports of the various boards, it is believed, will show the most gratifying blessing of God on every department of our missionary and benevolent work. The meetings ought to be, and doubtless will be, full of grateful joy for what has been accomplished, and of large and liberal purposes for future advancement along the lines already pursued, and others, it may be, into which our energies as a great Christian people ought to be directed."

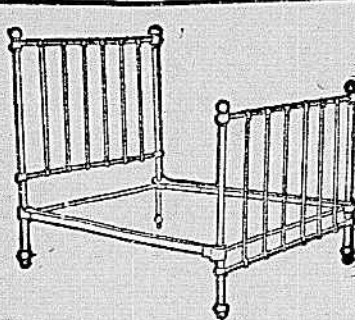
"In the sphere of education, the reports will be inspiring, and the opening words of effort in behalf of this movement, in the report of the various boards, will be the deepest interest and the wisest counsel. Our churches should delegate the best and most solid of their members to represent them in this meeting, and pay their expenses, if necessary. The meeting ought to be representative of our denominational loyalty, wisdom and enthusiasm. The city of Norfolk, with its attractive situation beside the sea, its attractive historic surroundings, and especially its warm-hearted and hospitable people, offers strong inducements for a full and representative attendance. Let our pastors see to it that this hope is not disappointed."

Unfortunately, the meetings are so arranged this year as to make a three-day session end on Saturday night. Heretofore, when the meetings have closed on Saturday, there has been a general hurrying away of ministers to be with their churches on Sunday, and the committee on religious services have been seriously embarrassed in making their arrangements for preaching on the Lord's day in consequence. Indeed, some unhappy dis-

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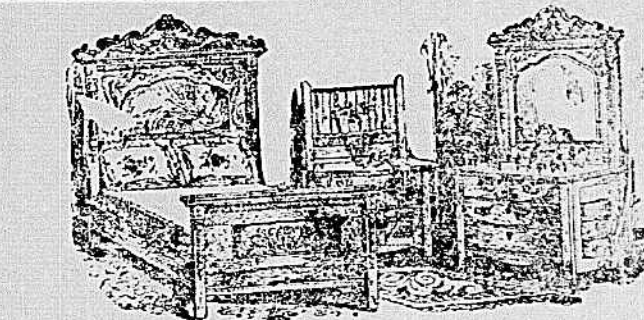
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